United Nations E/CN.18/2007/7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 March 2007

Original: English

United Nations Forum on Forests
Seventh session
New York, 16-27 April 2007
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Multi-year programme of work

Letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Germany co-hosted a country-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, on the theme "Multiyear programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests: charting the way forward to 2015", held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, from 13 to 16 February 2007.

The objective of the initiative was to explore ideas and concepts related to a multi-year programme of work of the Forum and to contribute to the deliberations of the Forum at its seventh session, when the Forum will adopt, among others, a multi-year programme of work.

The attached Co-Chairs' summary report (see annex) captures the highlights of the deliberations undertaken during the country-led initiative. I should be grateful if the report could be issued as a document of the seventh session of the Forum.

(*Signed*) Rezlan Ishar **Jenie**

* E/CN.18/2007/1.

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Annex to the letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

International Expert Meeting on "Multi Year Programme of Work of United Nations Forum on Forests: Charting the Way Forward to 2015"

A Country - Led Initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Co-Chair's Summary Report

I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents a summary of discussions of the international expert meeting, titled, "Multi Year Programme of Work of United Nations Forum on Forests: Charting the Way Forward to 2015", as a country-led initiative (CLI) in support of the UN Forum on Forests. The CLI was co-hosted by the Governments of Indonesia and Germany, and supported by the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Austria, the United States of America, Finland, the Secretariat of UNFF, the World Bank and the Center for International Forest Research.

The objective of the expert meeting was to contribute to the work of the seventh session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF7) in particular to explore, elaborate and develop broader understanding of the concept and elements of the new multi-year program of work (MYPOW) of UNFF with a view to help facilitate the deliberations and adoption of a robust and focused MYPOW at UNFF7.

The meeting was attended by 153 experts from 66 countries, as well as from 10 international organizations, 3 regional organizations and 11 major group organizations.

The preparation for the CLI was guided by a steering committee chaired by H.E. Ms. Adiyatwidi Adiwoso A. (Indonesia), consisting of members from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Germany, Kenya, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, the United States of America, the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Center for International Forestry Research. A National Organization Committee, headed by Dr. Boen Purnama, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Forestry was also formed in Indonesia to organize the meeting.

The CLI was officially opened by H.E. Mr. M.S. Kaban, Minister of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. M. Slamet Hidayat (Indonesia) and Mr. Matthias Schwoerer (Germany). Dr. Mahendra Joshi (UNFF Secretariat) acted as the Rapporteur. Short opening remarks were also delivered by Mr. Pekka Patosaari, Director of UNFF Secretariat and Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, Chairman of the UNFF-7 Bureau.

The experts at the CLI discussed the following broad issues through three parallel working groups:

1. Themes of UNFF biennial sessions
2. Modalities of the MYPOW

3. Possible approaches to enhance regional and sub-regional dimensions in the MYPOW

The UNFF Secretariat prepared a Keynote paper entitled "Developing a multi-year programme of work for the UNFF" which was introduced by Pekka Patosaari. The Center for International Forest Research prepared a supplementary paper entitled "Revitalizing the UNFF: Critical Issues and Ways Forward" which was introduced by Dr. Doris Capistrano. The World Bank presented an outline for a paper on means of implementation being prepared for UNFF. Representatives of major groups presented their views.

This summary report is a compilation of views discussed during the meeting and does not necessarily reflect a consensus among the experts, participating in their personal capacity. Some of the items discussed under the three working groups are cross cutting in nature. Therefore, for a full understanding of the discussion, the complete report may need to be considered in its entirety.

II. THEMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS BIENNIAL SESSIONS

The Working Group on the themes was co-chaired by Mr. Tony Bartlett (Australia) and Mr. Paul Lolo (Nigeria). The Rapporteur was Ms. Cinthia Soto (Costa Rica) supported by Ms. Ghazal Badiozamani (UNFF Secretariat).

This Working Group started with a general discussion of views on potential frameworks and themes for the future multi-year programme of work of the UNFF. It was generally agreed that the CLI should work to develop a set of options for consideration by the seventh session rather than try to come to an agreed outcome. Participants indicated it would be useful to consider what kind of output is desired from the UNFF sessions.

During these discussions a proposed structure for each two-year cycle was presented and discussed in order to clarify the need for some topics to be covered at each session and other topics to be discussed at one of the three sessions.

The participants first identified a wide range of topics that could be considered for inclusion in the MYPOW. Following considerable discussion about how best to organize these topics, it was agreed to cluster the topics and, during this process, three different proposals/options were identified.

Key considerations

Most participants agreed that the new MYPOW should place a strong emphasis on implementation and the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests. Participants also highlighted a number of issues they viewed as crucial. In that regard, means of implementation, including finance, capacity building and technology transfer, as well as governance, participation and rule of law were emphasized by participants. Some participants highlighted the need to ensure that the nine UNFF principal functions should be adequately provided for in the MYPOW, including the need for conservation and rehabilitation strategies of low forest cover countries. Other issues included the contribution of forests to poverty alleviation and livelihoods as well as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; monitoring, assessment and reporting and the related seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management; forests and water; forests and energy; and climate change.

The participants emphasized that the MYPOW should, among others:

- Include discussion of the achievement of the four Global Objectives on Forests at each session;

- Consider some recurrent issues at each session;
- Aim to limit the number of topics in order not to overload the sessions;
- Be flexible to accommodate regional and sub-regional inputs and respond to emerging issues as well as other relevant global processes;
- Define the output/outcome of its sessions and whether such output/outcome should be negotiated or summary of discussion;
- Improve the process to take into account contributions from the major groups, other stakeholders and CPF and its members;
- Avoid duplication with other processes;
- Take into account resolutions/decisions of previous sessions of UNFF.

To facilitate the consideration of recurrent issues at each UNFF session, the following should be taken into account in the MYPOW, inter alia:

1. Global Objectives on Forests: Implementation and Review
2. Review Implementation NLBI and IPF/IFF Proposals for Action
3. Address specific themes and emerging issues, including cross-cutting issues
4. Inputs to ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum.

Specific processes to be considered in some UNFF sessions should include:

- Preparations (2009) and Launching (2011) of the International Year on Forests
- Input to the 2012-2013 cycle of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (2011).

Based on the discussions, the following framework and clustering of issues has been prepared:

Illustrative UNFF Cycles

Cycles	Global Objectives and NLBI Implementation and Review	Themes and emerging issues *		
UNFF-8 2008 – 2009**	Themes related to implementation (such as Country national plans, activities and assessment of needs, etc) Outputs to be determined	Proposal/ Option A	Proposal/ Option B	Proposal/ Option C
UNFF-9 2010 – 2011**	Themes related to implementation (such as Country national plans, activities and assessment of needs, etc) Outputs to be determined	Proposal/ Option A	Proposal/ Option B	Proposal/ Option C
UNFF-10 2012 – 2013**	Themes related to implementation (such as Country national plans, activities and assessment of needs, etc) Outputs to be determined	Proposal/ Option A	Proposal/ Option B	Proposal/ Option C
UNFF-11 2014 – 2015**	• Review of the progress towards the Global Objectives/ NLBI	n.a.		

* Proposals/Options A, B and C are detailed below.

** To include decisions with regards to the convening of inter-sessional meetings, such as CLIs, AHEGs, and inter-governmental expert meetings

Themes and emerging issues

There was a general preference to base the discussions around themes, taking into account cross-cutting issues in every session (such as means of implementation, monitoring and reporting, governance, participation, rule of law etc). Some participants also stressed that simple titles for the UNFF sessions ("flagship themes") should be used. There was also a suggestion to dedicate an entire session for an in-depth consideration of the means of implementation. The UNFF secretariat presented one option (Proposal/Option A) for clustering in its background paper. Based on discussions, two further proposals/options (B and C) were developed. These are not encompassing of all issues or themes discussed nor was there consensus about at which session some issues should be discussed but they represent an effort by the co-chairs of the Working Group to capture the number of themes and issues. All three proposals/options are presented in the table below.

Proposal / Option A	Proposal / Option B	Proposal / Option C
UNFF 8 (2009): **Forests for Development (Global Objectives 1 and 4)** - climate change - rehabilitation and restoration - energy - water - financial resources	1: **Delivering/Achieving Sustainable Forest Management** • National actions / NFPs • Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting, including criteria and indicators • Governance, rule of law and participation • Regional and international processes • Forest education and awareness building • Forest Certification • Means of Implementation • Governance, participation and the rule of law	1: **Means of Implementation for SFM** • Financial resources • Transfer of environmentally sound technologies • Capacity building • Funding mechanisms • Raising awareness and education • Public and private partnerships
UNFF 10 (2013): **Forests for Growth (Global Objectives 3 and 4)** - forest products processing and NTFPs - trade, investment, employment, labor - forest tenure - nature based tourism and environmental services	2: **Forests, People, and Livelihoods/ Delivering Development** • Forests and Livelihoods / poverty • alleviation • Forest trade / investment / labor • Use of Non-Timber Forest Products • Traditional forest related knowledge and practices and access and benefit sharing • Land tenure / property rights • Benefits derived from eco-services • Cultural and spiritual aspects of forests • Means of Implementation • Governance, participation and the rule of law	2: **Forests for Development and Growth** • Forests and Livelihoods / poverty alleviation • Forest trade / investment / labor • Use of Non-Timber Forest Products • Traditional forest related knowledge and practices and access and benefit sharing • Land tenure / property rights

UNFF 9 (2011): **Forests for Livelihoods (Global Objectives 2 and 4)** - governance - peace-building and conflict resolution - urban and community based forest management - awareness building and (IYF 2011) and education - payments for environmental services - mid term review	3: **Forests: Delivering/Achieving Environmental Sustainability** • Water • Energy • Climate change • Benefits derived from eco-services • Rehabilitation and restoration • Disaster risk reduction • Biodiversity • Protected areas • Combating desertification • Means of Implementation • Governance, participation and the rule of law	3: **Sustainable Forest Management and Global Environmental Issues** • Water • Energy • Climate change • Benefits derived from eco-services • Rehabilitation and restoration • Disaster risk reduction • Biodiversity • Protected areas • Combating desertification
UNFF 11 (2015): **Review**	4: **Review**	4: **Review**

Cross-cutting issues

A number of issues were raised during discussions that could benefit from further consideration. Many participants emphasized that means of implementation should be considered at all UNFF sessions as a cross-cutting or recurring issue. Some participants stressed that governance, participation and rule of law need to be addressed in an equal manner. Monitoring, assessment and reporting will also play an important role in assessing progress on the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests. This will require further consideration to ensure that there is a clear understanding of how progress will be assessed in 2015. Some participants pointed to the adoption of indicators or the closer incorporation of the various criteria and indicators processes into the work of the Forum as one way of accomplishing this task. Others indicated that it would be difficult to negotiate new indicators in the time available at the three sessions.

Many participants pointed to an enhanced role for regional processes with some stating that regional processes, the CPF and its members, as well as major groups, should be given the opportunity to contribute themes and emerging issues for consideration by the Forum.

Other issues for consideration

Participants emphasized that there is a need to define the expected accomplishments and outputs from each session. Many stated that there is a need to reduce the time spent on negotiations. It was proposed by some participants that a Chairman's Summary could be adopted to address the components of the session which consider national and regional level implementation and progress on achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests. It was suggested that resolutions should apply to policy needs with regard to the themes of each session or aspects of implementation that require policy guidance.

Some participants suggested that the MYPOW could be used not only to guide the work of the UNFF but should also provide orientation to governments, regional processes, CPF and stakeholders. There is also a need for the MYPOW to "reach out" or be interesting to other fora.

The Science and Technology initiative of the CPF, spearheaded by IUFRO, would also provide policy and decision makers with up-to-date information on scientific findings related to forests and thus contribute to the substantive preparation for the work of each Forum. Development and use of the outputs of this initiative will serve to strengthen capacity within the forest science community as well the knowledge base of the Forum.

It was also considered that more thought is required on appropriate topics to discuss during the International Year on Forests (2011), to ensure that political and public interest is well engaged. The inclusion of other actors and decision makers was stressed throughout the meeting and many agreed that there is a need to make good use of existing fora and networks rather than creating new bodies or processes.

A number of other mechanisms can be incorporated into the MYPOW to address various themes and issues including Ad Hoc Expert Group meetings, Country and Organization Led Initiatives, and special events organized concurrently or in conjunction with the UNFF sessions. Side events could also be used more to highlight implementation successes.

III. MODALITIES OF THE MYPOW

The Working Group on modalities was co-chaired by Mr. Ingwald Gschwandtl (Austria) and Dato' Mokhtar Mat Isa (Malaysia). The rapporteur was Mr. Fredrick Matwang'a (Kenya) supported by Ms. Mita Sen (UNFF Secretariat).

The co-chairs observed that in the context of the discussions, modalities refer to the methods of work/working mechanisms of the UNFF that would ensure effective implementation of its mandates as relates to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). These would include: preparation for sessional and pre-sessional activities; preparation for the International Year of Forests (IYF) 2011; stakeholder involvement; regional and sub-regional involvement; expected outputs; reporting requirements; linkages to other processes and; monitoring and review. The reference points for the discussions included relevant ECOSOC resolutions; reports presented by the UNFF Secretariat and Center for International Forest Research (CIFOR) and; lessons learned from previous and other related processes.

Effective working modalities for future UNFF sessions

A number of participants observed that the existing mechanisms should serve as a starting point for developing working modalities for future UNFF sessions. Lessons learned from previous modalities provide a basis for determining what needs to be done to develop effective structure and procedures for the MYPOW. Some participants were of the view that new modalities should be considered which would enable more activities at regional and national levels. Activities within this consideration could include workshops, seminars, and side events at UNFF sessions as appropriate.

Some noted that, while progress has been made in the work of UNFF, now it is time to emphasize implementation concerns. Outputs from the sessions would be negotiated texts and chairman's summary, as appropriate. Given that the 7th session of the UNFF is expected to produce two major outcomes, the NLBI and MYPOW, the need to identify key issues and outcomes is expected for future sessions.

Some participants noted the role of high level segments in attracting political attention. The need to maximize the contribution of ministers in making breakthroughs and buy-ins during negotiations was mentioned. Proposals were made on frequency, timing, format and thematic focus of high level segments. Some suggested that every UNFF session could include a high level segment, while some others proposed that only two high level segments be held between now and 2015. The high level segments could take place either at the beginning or the end of the session. They should focus on the specific themes of the UNFF sessions. The format of informal roundtables was suggested. The importance of the dialogue with heads of CPF members and major groups was also underscored.

To strengthen the role of CPF in supporting the UNFF and enhancing cooperation and coordination of forest issues, CPF members should be encouraged to provide focused, substantive inputs related to the session themes. CPF members could also facilitate regional activities in support of SFM. The need for UNFF to continue providing guidance to CPF was highlighted. Modalities to assess the responses of CPF and to further improve this guidance should be considered.

It was pointed out that there has been no mechanism within the UNFF on how to use science and technology. The need to embrace science and technology was highlighted. Participants stressed that UNFF should invite contributions from scientific community on emerging and topical issues.

In order to increase focus on reporting and reviewing progress in implementation, participants emphasized that either the first week or 2-3 days at the session be devoted for exchange of information and sharing of experiences.

Some participants stressed the need for preparatory work for the biennial UNFF sessions. Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings (IPM) were suggested as a mechanism to carry this out and to attract the experts needed. These meetings could also serve to distil the various inputs received from regions, sub-regions, CPF members, major groups and other stakeholders. The inputs should relate to the themes of the upcoming session, implementation of SFM and other relevant issues. The IPM could serve as a mechanism for the global/regional interface. These meetings should be decided upon early enough in order to take care of systemic issues and provide time to consider their budgetary implications as appropriate. Some participants made a proposal to develop guidelines for regional input.

It was noted that Ad hoc Expert Groups (AHEGs) and country and organization led initiatives (CLIs and OLIs) have been and remain important contributors to the Forum's processes. These meetings should address specific topical/thematic issues and attract member states, major groups and other stakeholders.

It was also noted that activities and outcomes of other existing forest-related meetings may contribute to preparations for UNFF.

It was further noted that inputs to ECOSOC including Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) could be provided through UNFF sessions. The timing of UNFF sessions should take into account the schedule of ECOSOC sessions and other UN processes, so as to prepare and review its inputs.

Participants emphasized that UNFF should also provide inputs to other environment related conventions and fora that discuss forest policy issues and vice-versa. In the context of the broader development agenda, attention was drawn to paragraph 22 of the 2005 World

Summit Outcome regarding Global Partnership for Development, which enumerates seven elements that are useful in the process of developing MYPOW.

Participants noted that UNFF should incorporate lessons learned and best practices through, inter alia, south-south and triangular cooperation and bilateral agreements. A number of organizations and countries have a wealth of experience in developing and implementing forest related policies and programmes. Developing and implementing national forest programmes, could help to link national activities to regional and global processes, objectives and functions of the IAF.

The International Year of Forests (IYF) 2011 was viewed as an opportunity to raise awareness on issues of SFM. The preparations of the guidelines for the Year should be included in the MYPOW. The guidelines should help stimulate activities at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels, involving all stakeholders. In this regard, the timing and manner of the launch of the Year would be important as it would determine the level of participation.

The link between the MYPOW and the NLBI

Given that the UNFF would be the intergovernmental body to oversee implementation of the NLBI and the MYPOW, participants underscored the need to integrate the NLBI into the MYPOW. Participants suggested that flexibility be built into the MYPOW, such that it can accommodate the NLBI once adopted.

Stakeholder involvement

Participants acknowledged the potential of stakeholders to bring creative ideas to the Forum particularly in the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests and stressed the importance of enhancing their participation and better utilization of their contributions. Participants stressed the need to enhance communication mechanisms and networks between stakeholders at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels and to channel their inputs to the UNFF. Participants, keeping in mind ECOSOC rules of procedure, underlined the need to explore options for broadening major groups' participation in UNFF. To enhance involvement of major groups, funding for major groups from developing countries needs to be considered appropriately.

Reporting

It was pointed out that for reporting the Global Objectives on Forests would form the basis and the seven thematic elements of SFM be used as reference framework for SFM. Participants identified four categories of reports: country, CPF, UNFF secretariat and major groups. Some participants pointed out that reporting should:

- facilitate information exchange and sharing of lessons learned;
- be based on the mandates of reporting organizations;
- provide information on the activities undertaken during pre-sessional periods, best practices and challenges and measures taken in implementing SFM and UNFF decisions, including information on governance and forest law enforcement;
- be simple, focused, cost effective and harmonized;
- be innovative, creative and action oriented;
- be based on reliable data.

The importance of country reports was emphasized in spite of the observation that submission of country reports is not obligatory, and the number of country reports received was low. Several participants stressed the need to reduce the burden of reporting on countries and major groups, and that efforts should be continued to streamline reporting requirements. Some participants stressed that no new reporting mechanisms should be created. Some participants highlighted the capacity limitations related to reporting in some developing and least developed countries, hence called for capacity building (human, financial and technical) in this regard. Recognizing the capacity limitations of some countries and major groups in preparing written reports, some participants proposed that oral reports could be presented to the Forum as part of its segment on information sharing.

Participants noted the possibility to establish a facilitative process dedicated to support countries in the area of reporting taking into account their specific needs. Some participants stressed that support to countries should be channelled through existing national mechanisms. Possibilities for CPF members to serve countries in different circumstances in the area of capacity building need to be explored. Some participants highlighted the constraints relating to capacity building, conditionalities, unclear concepts and collection of information. In addition, South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation were seen as possible avenues for creating awareness on SFM.

Monitoring, assessment and review

The need and importance of a feedback mechanism was emphasized. Monitoring and information dissemination to all stakeholders could be enhanced, and effective mechanisms for this should be developed. Participants stressed the need to provide access to information for monitoring, assessment and review. Participants also noted that appropriate guidelines, criteria and indicators for evaluating effectiveness of the IAF should be developed.

Some participants stressed the need for countries to monitor the implementation of the Global Objectives on Forests and report, as appropriate, through the high level segment. It was proposed that review of implementation should take into account internationally agreed development commitments including those contained in the 2005 World Summit outcome. Three options for monitoring and review were suggested:

- undertake a midterm review in 2011,
- undertake review every two years i.e. progressive review at each session and,
- undertake a midterm review at other forums, such as CLIs.

IV. Possible approaches to enhance regional and sub-regional dimensions in the MYPOW

The working group on this topic was co-chaired by Dr. Peter Mayer (IUFRO) and Mr. Jose Antonio Doig (Peru). Dr. Sim Heok-Choh (scientific and technological community) served as rapporteur supported by Ms. Catalina Santamaria (UNFF Secretariat).

The Working Group based their discussions with the common understanding of exploring ways to strengthen interactions between the UNFF and relevant regional and sub-regional forest related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes to enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of SFM and contribute to

the work of the UNFF, as requested by ECOSOC resolution 2006/49 (paragraphs 2c, 7c, 11, and 15).

General views

Participants of the Working Group shared the following general views:

- Importance of using existing forest-related regional and sub-regional mechanisms, with the intent of addressing the topics of the new MYPOW. UNFF should strengthen its support to these mechanisms, as called for by regions.

- Drawing from examples, it was recognized that there is a multitude of ongoing forest-related regional and sub-regional cooperation and activities. However, challenges in each region and subregion vary.

- Regional mechanisms are important in channelling down global topics to national implementation, and the reverse. In addition the importance of inter-regional cooperation was also emphasized.

- There is a need to address regional/sub-regional challenges when discussing forest related regional matters.

- There is a potential to increase attention on cross-sectoral activities in forest related regional discussions.

- Political commitment should be strengthened to raise the profile of regional/sub-regional forest cooperation, for example at the future high level segments of the UNFF and regional mechanisms.

Existing regional mechanisms and how could they cooperate in function of providing input to UNFF's work

Participants stressed that:

- There are differences among existing forest related regional and sub-regional mechanisms in each region as well as various approaches for coordination.

- At present it is unlikely that in all regions forest related regional and sub-regional mechanisms could provide a regionally coordinated input to UNFF sessions. Some participants mentioned that a regionally coordinated approach should be encouraged.

- Nevertheless, a possibility exists for a coordinated input, from the regions to UNFF, on selected substantive topics. This would depend on the regions and the topics.

In this regard, participants underscored the following:

- Communication and interaction of UNFF with relevant forest related regional and sub-regional processes, organizations, bodies and instruments, per region, is required in order to ensure and to receive balanced regional inputs.

- There is a need for some regional and sub-regional mechanisms to receive guidance from UNFF to support the development of their forest related agendas and activities.

Input from the regions to UNFF

With regard to intersessional period /intergovernmental expert meetings participants emphasized that:

- There is no need for additional mechanisms or meetings in the regions or for new and additional forest related regional expert meetings.

- Existing forest related regional and sub-regional mechanisms should be used to address UNFF matters.

Participants further emphasized the need for flexibility within the regions and that there may be individual approaches for each region, drawing from their existing regional and sub-regional mechanisms, when submitting inputs to UNFF.

Participants expressed views on the relevance of using the UN regional geographic groupings to organize regional forest related input to the UNFF. Other options such as a strict geographical approach should also be explored.

Several participants highlighted the potential for FAO regional forestry commissions to channel regional and sub-regional input to UNFF. Some participants also highlighted the potential for UN regional economic commissions in this regard. Other integrated approaches used in some regions, as well as using other CPF members have also been mentioned.

Several participants recommended that the ways for channelling regional and sub-regional input to UNFF should be decided by regional and subregional mechanisms in their regions. Views were also expressed that this could take place at the seventh session of the UNFF.

Participants highlighted that CPF members should play a facilitative role to build capacity for regional input.

With regard to the regional interface at substantive UNFF sessions participants highlighted that:

- There is a need to devote two days of plenary at each UNFF session for the regional dimension in order to enhance cooperation between regional and sub-regional mechanisms and to facilitate effective implementation of SFM, including emerging regional issues, through exchange of information on best practices and a review of experiences.

- There could be several voluntary reports from the different secretariats of forest related sub-regional and regional bodies and/or regional focal points from a region. Such reports would be separate from the voluntary national reports mentioned in the ECOSOC resolution 2006/49.

- National reports provide the basis for a meaningful regional exchange of experiences and cooperation.

Some participants stressed the possibility for regions to provide one coordinated regional report. This would depend on individual regional decisions.

Participants noted that as far as possible regional and sub-regional reports could be treated as official documents for discussion at UNFF sessions, including translation into all official UN languages. In this regard, there may be a need to synthesize regional and sub-regional input from a region. This could be prepared, if requested by the regions, through the UNFF Secretariat or other CPF member organizations.

Objectives of, and topics for, regional meetings

With regards to regional key issues, participants highlighted that:

- Several existing regional and sub-regional mechanisms have already adopted work programmes according to their regional mandates and priorities.

- When addressing UNFF topics, consideration should be given to prevent over-burdening established regional and sub-regional working programmes and their agreed timelines.

- Emerging regional issues, apart from MYPOW topics, can be brought to the UNFF sessions.

With regards to issues linked to MYPOW topics, participants underscored that:

- In accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2006/49 forest related regional and sub-regional bodies, mechanisms, and processes are invited to address MYPOW topics.

- When addressing MYPOW topics, forest related regional and sub-regional mechanisms should take into account their regional specificities.

- Implementation, including the means of implementation, should be a common item for regional and sub-regional discussions.

- Regional discussions should also address the implementation of the Global Objectives on Forests.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The Meeting attracted a great number of participants from all regions, major groups and international/regional organizations. The meeting was conducted in a very constructive spirit and resulted in productive and fruitful outcomes. For the first time participants had the opportunity to exchange views on the future Multi-year Program of Work (MYPOW) of the United Nations Forum on Forests from 2008-2015.

The participants were specifically inspired by the wish to facilitate deliberations at the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF-7), bearing in mind that

two major issues need to be decided upon; the MYPOW and Non-Legally Binding Instrument.

The Participants expressed their profound appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, the people and the provincial government of Bali, the National Organization Committee and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations New York for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of this CLI.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the support by the Co-host countries as well as sponsoring countries/organizations and the UNFF Secretariat.

Participants requested that the outcome of the Country Led Initiative be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and be made available as an official document of UNFF-7 and be translated into all official languages in time for consideration for UNFF-7.

The meeting was officially closed by H.E. Ms. Adiyatwidi Adiwoso A., Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations New York.